

rising in cities across our country and around the world to say enough is enough. People from all walks of life are coming together to call for real change to address the inequities and failures of our systems, to shine a light on persistent and systemic racism, and to demand justice for the senseless deaths of African American men and women like George Floyd, Breanna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery.

Moments like these in history force us to confront the sobering truths of who and where we are as a nation. Many will have their eyes opened to realities and perspectives they did not see before, thus beginning or furthering their journeys to unlearn deeply engrained beliefs and better understand how racism continues to shape our daily lives. Others still will feel emboldened to turn their knowledge and empathy into action for the first time.

And then there are those leaders who have been in this fight for much longer. I rise today to honor as Iowan of the Week one such leader who has been on the front lines not only of recent peaceful protests, but also of the day-to-day work of lifting up a community from within: Kameron Middlebrooks.

Kam's history of activism and accomplishments belie his relative youth. Now in his early thirties, he's already spent half his life advocating for Des Moines' black community. If you mention Kam's name to someone in central Iowa, it's likely they've already heard of him. That could be because they went to school together at Roosevelt High, read about him as one of the Des Moines Register's 15 People to Watch in 2019, heard about the work he's done on the Des Moines Human and Civil Rights Commission, or for a host of other reasons. As busy as life in Congress keeps me, I wonder how Kameron fits everything into his day.

Kam currently serves as President of the Des Moines Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization he joined in high school before becoming its youngest-ever Midwestern Regional Field Director and successfully leading a campaign to register more than 15,000 people of color to vote across the Midwest. He's owned his own small business, and now coaches African Americans interested in becoming small business owners through that process as minority business coordinator for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. He hosts annual trainings at Des Moines' Evelyn K. Davis Center for Working Families to equip participants with essential skills to successfully run their own shops. He coordinates multiple work groups to address disparities among black and white residents of Polk County in critical areas like employment, education, and housing. And his efforts to create a more equitable society without racial discrimination don't stop there.

Kam and I spoke on the phone last Monday. He'd spent each of the several nights prior at peaceful protests until the early hours of the morning to make sure the younger generation got home safely. When thanked for his work, he praised others. When asked what comes next, he already had plans for how we can empower youth voices and create a stronger community. His passion, selflessness, and drive were infectious. It's no surprise he's emerged as someone Iowans are eager to follow.

Across my state and the country, thousands continue to gather day after day to stand to-

gether against injustice. Young leaders like Kameron are among them. While it is imperative current elected officials heed their calls for action, it is also my hope that the young voices powering this movement are inspired to stay involved and ultimately become the officeholders called upon to enact more just and equitable policies.

For many reasons, the people of Iowa are fortunate to call Kameron Middlebrooks one of our own. I ask today that the House of Representatives join me in honoring his continued service and leadership by naming him our Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SCOTT MENZEL FOR A DISTINGUISHED CAREER WITH THE WASHTENAW INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Scott Menzel for his years of distinguished service to students in Michigan and offer my heartfelt congratulations as he begins a new chapter as superintendent for the Scottsdale Unified School District in Arizona. Although we are all sad to see him go, we are proud to celebrate his outstanding contributions to the Washtenaw Intermediate School District.

In 2011, Dr. Scott Menzel became the superintendent of the Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD) and started his tenure at a pivotal moment in the community's history. In 2012, Willow Run and Ypsilanti schools began the consolidation process to form a new district. The consolidation, which many thought to be impossible, came to fruition thanks to the support of the WISD and Menzel's tenacity, hard work, and commitment to education. Prior to his work in the WISD, Menzel served as superintendent for Whitmer Lake Public Schools from 2002 to 2007. Later, Menzel led similar operations at the Livingston Educational Service Agency from 2007 to 2011.

Throughout all capacities, Menzel has been recognized as a humble leader who strives to make a lasting and meaningful difference in students' lives. He dedicates himself to causes he believes in, and encourages others to demonstrate compassion, service, and excellence. Undoubtedly, Menzel's passion for education and academic opportunity have left a profound impact on the school district, evident in the recent passing of a bond proposal that will help construct a new \$53.2 million school for special-needs students outside of Ann Arbor. Moreover, Menzel's focus on addressing racial disparities and promoting racial equity throughout the district has set a clear example for other districts to emulate. He has been an avid proponent of My Brother's Keeper, an initiative created under the Obama Administration to address persistent opportunity gaps facing young boys and young men of color, and his involvement has helped the program flourish and grow throughout Michigan. He has received numerous honors and accolades for his work including the National African American Parent Involvement Day Spirit Award, the

MASA Regional Superintendent of the Year Award, and the White House YMCA Champion for Change Award, among a host of others.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Scott Menzel. Menzel has helped students develop skills and gain confidence not only needed to succeed academically, but in life beyond the classroom. He has impacted their futures in profound ways, and we are all grateful for his commitment to his students, his district, and his community. We thank him for his service to students in Michigan and wish him the best of luck in Arizona.

GREGORY THOMPSON
CONDOLENCES

HON. DAN CRENSHAW

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise with deep sadness to mourn the loss of Gregory Thompson, who passed away on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Gregory sadly joins countless Americans who fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic. At just 56 years old, his full life was cut far too short.

Gregory served our country in the United States Air Force and was a Security Officer at the U.S. State Department in Washington, D.C. for more than 15 years.

A self-made man, Gregory was the owner of Made to Measure, a custom tailor clothing business that he owned with his partner Howard Wallace. That's how I knew Gregory.

Gregory was kind, warm, and I always enjoyed our time together. Gregory always took on the difficult task of making me look my best with a smile, and I am grateful that I had such a talented craftsman to take care of me during my first year in Washington.

But much more than a tailor, Gregory was a father to Giovanni and a brother to Elizabeth, Veneda, Michael, and Walter. He was a cherished friend and beloved family member to many, all of whom are grieving this profound loss.

I ask the whole House to join me as we mourn the loss of Gregory Thompson and offer our sincere condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones during this difficult time.

Never Forget.

HONORING THE CAREER OF PATRICIA RADER, A LIFELONG PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2020

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Patricia Rader, as she retires from serving as a Claims Specialist at the Social Security Administration in Minneapolis.

A Blaine native, Patricia has served the Social Security Administration and the many Minnesotans that benefit from their services for forty years. Over the course of her four decades of work, she has touched the lives of